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10 February 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Reconnaissance Group, IRS/DDI

SUBJECT : Overhead Imagery as a Source of Strategic
Warning on China

REFERENCE : Working Paper dated 26 January 1970, Subject,
Same as Above, DDI/IRS 434-70

The following comments are provided in response to your
request on reference document:

1. On pages 7, 11 and 13 it is established that Airborne
Systems are used for coverage of South China areas and will be
necessary until development of "near-real-time photographic
coverage systems".

2. Paragraph 3, page 14, of Conclusions implies that
earliest date for an operational near-real-time system will be
the mid-1970's (and possibly later, considering past develop-
mental history).

3. In view of 1. and 2. above, recommend that Conclusions,
page 13, be amended to establish Airborne Systems as a continuing
requirement for the collection of strategic information on
Communist China, until such time as some other means, such as a
real-time photographic satellite, is available and in operation.

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Deputy Director of Special Activities

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